sage and the second signaling message, whether each of the source base station and the target base station supports assistance information.

[0138] Then, in a step S54, if it is determined in step S53 that both the source base station and the target base station support assistance information, the recevier/transmitter 41 of the user equipment 40 transmits assistance information to the target base station only if the assistance information differs from the assistance information transmitted previously to the source base station.

[0139] Further, in a step S55, if it is determined in step S53 that the source base station supports assistance information and the target base station does not support assistance information, the user equipment 40 inhibits transmitting assistance information when the user equipment is connected to the target base station until the user equipment is disconnected from the target base station.

[0140] Moreover, in a step S56, if it is determined in step S53 that the source base station does not support assistance information and the target base station supports assistance information, the receiver/transmitter 41 of the user equipment 40 transmits assistance information to the target base station when the user equipment is connected to the target base station.

[0141] According to certain embodiment of the present invention, the first signaling message is sent at a time of connection reconfiguration after connection setup. Further, the second signaling message is transmitted at handover of the user equipment.

[0142] Further, according to certain embodiments of the present invention, each of the first and the second signaling message may be the same kind of message and may be a RRCConnectionReconfiguration message.

[0143] In the foregoing exemplary description of the user equipment and the base stations, only the units that are relevant for understanding the principles of the invention have been described using functional blocks. The user equipment and the base stations may comprise further units that are necessary for its respective operation. However, a description of these units is omitted in this specification. The arrangement of the functional blocks of the devices is not construed to limit the invention, and the functions may be performed by one block or further split into sub-blocks.

[0144] When in the foregoing description it is stated that the apparatus, i.e. the user equipment or the base stations (or some other means) is configured to perform some function, this is to be construed to be equivalent to a description stating that a (i.e. at least one) processor or corresponding circuitry, potentially in cooperation with computer program code stored in the memory of the respective apparatus, is configured to cause the apparatus to perform at least the thus mentioned function. Also, such function is to be construed to be equivalently implementable by specifically configured circuitry or means for performing the respective function (i.e. the expression "unit configured to" is construed to be equivalent to an expression such as "means for").

[0145] For the purpose of the present invention as described herein above, it should be noted that

[0146] method steps likely to be implemented as software code portions and being run using a processor at a network control element or terminal (as examples of devices, apparatuses and/or modules thereof, or as examples of entities including apparatuses and/or modules therefore), are software code independent and can

be specified using any known or future developed programming language as long as the functionality defined by the method steps is preserved;

[0147] generally, any method step is suitable to be implemented as software or by hardware without changing the idea of the embodiments and its modification in terms of the functionality implemented;

[0148] method steps and/or devices, units or means likely to be implemented as hardware components at the above-defined apparatuses, or any module(s) thereof, (e.g., devices carrying out the functions of the apparatuses according to the embodiments as described above) are hardware independent and can be implemented using any known or future developed hardware technology or any hybrids of these, such as MOS (Metal Oxide Semiconductor), CMOS (Complementary MOS), BiMOS (Bipolar MOS), BiCMOS (Bipolar CMOS), ECL (Emitter Coupled Logic), TTL (Transistor-Transistor Logic), etc., using for example ASIC (Application Specific IC (Integrated Circuit)) components, FPGA (Field-programmable Gate Arrays) components, CPLD (Complex Programmable Logic Device) components or DSP (Digital Signal Processor) components;

[0149] devices, units or means (e.g. the above-defined apparatuses and user equipments/base stations, or any one of their respective units/means) can be implemented as individual devices, units or means, but this does not exclude that they are implemented in a distributed fashion throughout the system, as long as the functionality of the device, unit or means is preserved;

[0150] an apparatus may be represented by a semiconductor chip, a chipset, or a (hardware) module comprising such chip or chipset; this, however, does not exclude the possibility that a functionality of an apparatus or module, instead of being hardware implemented, be implemented as software in a (software) module such as a computer program or a computer program product comprising executable software code portions for execution/being run on a processor;

[0151] a device may be regarded as an apparatus or as an assembly of more than one apparatus, whether functionally in cooperation with each other or functionally independently of each other but in a same device housing, for example.

[0152] In general, it is to be noted that respective functional blocks or elements according to above-described aspects can be implemented by any known means, either in hardware and/or software, respectively, if it is only adapted to perform the described functions of the respective parts. The mentioned method steps can be realized in individual functional blocks or by individual devices, or one or more of the method steps can be realized in a single functional block or by a single device.

[0153] Generally, any method step is suitable to be implemented as software or by hardware without changing the idea of the present invention. Devices and means can be implemented as individual devices, but this does not exclude that they are implemented in a distributed fashion throughout the system, as long as the functionality of the device is preserved. Such and similar principles are to be considered as known to a skilled person.

[0154] Software in the sense of the present description comprises software code as such comprising code means or portions or a computer program or a computer program prod-